



Another treasure of Aruba's beaches: Sea Glass!



Page 8

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Federal immigration crackdown ends in Charlotte, North Carolina, sheriff says

By **GARY D. ROBERTSON** and **JOHN SEEWER** Associated Press

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP) — A federal immigration crackdown centered around North Carolina's largest city of Charlotte appeared to be over after less than a week as Border Patrol agents now turn their attention toward New Orleans, where the next big operation is expected. Federal officials confirmed with Mecklenburg County Sheriff Garry McFadden that the U.S. Customs and Border Protection operation known as "Operation Charlotte's Web" was officially over following hundreds of arrests, the sheriff's office said Thursday.

No border agent operations will occur in Charlotte on Thursday, the sheriff's office said. A spokesperson for the Border Patrol agency didn't immediately respond to an email seeking confirmation of the sheriff's statement. The operation that began last weekend was the most recent phase of Republican President Donald Trump's aggressive mass deportation efforts that have sent the military



U.S. Border Patrol Commander at large Gregory Bovino takes a phone call, Monday, Nov. 17, 2025, in Charlotte, N.C.

(AP Photo/Matt Kelley)

and immigration agents into Democratic-run cities from Chicago to Los Angeles. Federal agents are expected to descend next on New Orleans for operation "Swamp Sweep," a monthslong crackdown in southeast Louisiana. As many as 250 federal troops could arrive as soon as Friday for the operation expected to kick off at the

beginning of December. In North Carolina, agents some heavily armed in tactical gear and unmarked vehicles arrested more than 250 people through Tuesday night during the crackdown, Homeland Security officials said Wednesday. Federal officials have offered few details about those arrested. The push expanded to ar-

round the state capital of Raleigh on Tuesday. Agents were seen in a suburb where officials say almost 20% of the population was born outside the U.S. Charlotte Mayor Vi Lyles, a Democrat, said Thursday she was glad the enforcement operation had apparently ended. "I'm relieved for our community and the residents,

businesses, and all those who were targeted and impacted by this intrusion," Lyles wrote on X. "As we move forward, it is essential that we come together not as separate groups divided by recent events, but as one Charlotte community." North Carolina Republican Party spokesperson Matt Mercer called the crackdown a success.

Homeland Security leaders have said they brought the large operation to North Carolina because of so-called sanctuary policies that limit cooperation between local authorities and immigration agents.

The crackdown in Charlotte was met with some resistance and protests. About 100 people gathered outside a Home Depot store in Charlotte on Wednesday, where federal agents were spotted multiple times during the surge.

Arrests in Charlotte and the Raleigh area created a chilling effect in immigrant neighborhoods school attendance dropped, and small shops and restaurants closed to avoid confrontations between customers and federal agents. □

Vance says Americans need patience on prices but says 'We hear you' on affordability concerns

By **MICHELLE L. PRICE** Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — While President Donald Trump has struggled to settle on a way to address Americans'

concerns about high costs, Vice President JD Vance on Thursday offered a more direct and empathetic message, saying, "We hear you" and "there's a lot more

work to do." But the American people need to have "a little bit of patience," Vance said in remarks at an event hosted by Breitbart News.

The vice president's remarks come as the White House grapples with how to speak to voters about the cost of living, an issue that emerged as a vulnerability for Republicans in this month's off-year elections in New Jersey and Virginia gubernatorial races. Vance said the Trump administration has "made incredible progress" in tackling cost-of-living concerns as they worked to undo policies from former President Joe Biden.

"As much progress as we've made, it's going to take a little bit of time for every

American to feel that economic boom, which we really do believe is coming. We believe that we're on the front end of it," Vance said.

Trump, whose tariffs have contributed to higher prices for many goods, has insisted that prices are down, pointing to gas and egg prices specifically. The president has said Democrats' arguments about affordability during the election were "a con job," and saying "I don't want to hear about the affordability, because right now, we're much less." However, in recent days he has shifted his response, acknowledging that there is room for consumer prices to drop further. Vance addresses Republican infighting

Vance was asked about recent high-profile rifts within Trump's Make America Great Again coalition. Trump broke with one of his most loyal backers, Georgia Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene, over her complaints he was spending too much time on foreign policy and had dragged his feet on releasing files related to Jeffrey Epstein.

Trump also has been reluctant to disavow white nationalist Nick Fuentes and conservative commentator Tucker Carlson, who recently hosted Fuentes for a friendly interview, touching off turmoil on the right.

Vance did not directly address the recent infighting, but said he thinks the debates within the party are healthy. □



Vice President JD Vance speaks with Breitbart News Washington bureau chief Matthew Boyle at Andrew W. Mellon Auditorium, Thursday, Nov. 20, 2025, in Washington.

(AP Photo/Julia Demaree Nikhinson)

Trump says Democrats' video message to military is 'seditious behavior' punishable by death

By MEG KINNARD Associated Press

President Donald Trump on Thursday accused half a dozen Democratic lawmakers of sedition "punishable by DEATH" after the lawmakers all veterans of the armed services and intelligence community called on U.S. military members to uphold the Constitution and defy "illegal orders."

The 90-second video was first posted early Tuesday from Sen. Elissa Slotkin's X account. In it, the six lawmakers Slotkin, Arizona Sen. Mark Kelly, and Reps. Jason Crow, Chris Deluzio, Maggie Goodlander and Chrisy Houlihan speak directly to U.S. service members, whom Slotkin acknowledges are "under enormous stress and pressure right now."

"The American people need you to stand up for our laws and our Constitution," Slotkin wrote in the X post. Trump on Thursday reposted messages from others about the video, amplifying it with his own words. It marked another flashpoint in the political rhetoric that at times has been thematic in his administrations, as well as among some in his MAGA base. Some Democrats accused him of acting like a king and trying to distract from soon-to-be-released files about disgraced financier and sexual abuser Jeffrey Epstein.

What Democrats said in the



President Donald Trump speaks during the Saudi Investment Forum at the Kennedy Center, Wednesday, Nov. 19, 2025, in Washington.

(AP Photo/Evan Vucci)

video

With pieces of dialogue spliced together from different members, the lawmakers introduce themselves and their background. They go on to say the Trump administration "is pitting our uniformed military against American citizens. They call for service members to "refuse illegal orders" and "stand up for our laws."

The lawmakers conclude the video by encouraging service members, "Don't give up the ship," a War of 1812-era phrase attributed to a U.S. Navy captain's dying command to his crew. Although the lawmakers didn't mention specific cir-

cumstances in the video, its release comes as the Trump administration continues attempts at deployment of National Guard troops into U.S. cities for various roles, although some have been pulled back, and others held up in court.

Are U.S. troops allowed to disobey orders?

Troops, especially uniformed commanders, have a specific obligation to reject an order that's unlawful, if they make that determination.

However, while commanders have military lawyers on their staffs to consult with in helping make such a determination, rank-and-file troops who are tasked with

carrying out those orders are rarely in a similar position.

Broad legal precedence holds that just following orders, colloquially known as the "Nuremberg defense" as it was used unsuccessfully by senior Nazi officials to justify their actions under Adolf Hitler, doesn't absolve troops. However, the U.S. military legal code, known as the Uniform Code of Military Justice or UCMJ, will punish troops for failing to follow an order should it turn out to be lawful. Troops can be criminally charged with Article 90 of the UCMJ, willfully disobeying a superior commissioned officer, and Article 92, failure to

obey an order.

How Trump, others responded

On Thursday, Trump reposted to social media an article about the video, adding his own commentary that it was "really bad, and Dangerous to our Country." "SEDITIONOUS BEHAVIOR FROM TRAITORS!!!" Trump went on. "LOCK THEM UP???" He also called for the lawmakers' arrest and trial, adding in a separate post that it was "SEDITIONOUS BEHAVIOR, punishable by DEATH."

Democrats were swift to react to Trump's words, with Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer warning in a floor speech that the president was "lighting a match in a country soaked with political gasoline."

Speaker Mike Johnson said he did not believe Trump was calling for violence in the social media posts, saying Trump was merely "defining a crime," and calling the Democrats' video "wildly inappropriate."

"Think of the threat that is to our national security and what it means for our institution," Johnson added.

Trump's allies balked at the video. Wednesday on Fox News, White House deputy chief of staff Stephen Miller called the messaging "insurrection plainly, directly, without question" and said it represented "a general call for rebellion from the CIA and the armed services of the United States, by Democrat lawmakers." □

Lawmakers pass bill raising taxes for Russians branded as 'foreign agents'

By The Associated Press undefined

Russian lawmakers approved a new bill Thursday boosting taxes for those labeled foreign agents by the government.

The bill, which passed its third and final reading in the lower house of parliament, outlines an income tax rate of 30% for individuals with the designation and takes away their right to government tax breaks. Income tax for most resi-

dents ranges between 13% and 22%, depending on their earnings. The 30% tax rate previously only applied to nonresidents who were working for foreign companies. The bill also bars organizations labeled as foreign agents from applying for reduced corporate income tax rates.

"Those who betrayed our country should not receive tax breaks," lawmaker Vyacheslav Volodin said in a social media post an-

nouncing the bill's passage. "They will pay higher taxes to the state budget." The legislation must be approved by the upper house and then signed by President Vladimir Putin before it becomes law.

The changes are just one part of wider changes to Russia's tax system as Moscow looks to boost its economy during its nearly 4-year-old war in Ukraine. Russian lawmakers also approved a bill that will raise

value-added tax from 20% to 22%, a move expected to add as much as 1 trillion rubles (about \$12.3 billion) to the state budget.

Under Russian law, anyone considered by the government to be under "foreign influence" can be deemed a foreign agent.

The legislation obliges organizations to identify themselves as being foreign agents and media outlets designated as such must run a lengthy state-

ment to that effect with their stories.

Foreign agents are also banned from organizing public events, teaching in state schools and receiving state financial support, among other restrictions.

The law has been used against opposition supporters, independent media and human rights activists, with critics describing it as a way of trying to discredit organizations that do not follow the Kremlin line. □

South Africa deploys 3,500 extra police officers and braces for protests around the G20 summit

By **MICHELLE GUMEDE** Associated Press

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — South African police and army units held a parade Wednesday involving helicopters, K-9 dog units and officers on motorcycles in a show of force ahead of expected protests around this weekend's Group of 20 world leaders summit in Johannesburg.

South Africa has deployed 3,500 extra police officers and put the army on standby under its National Joint Operational and Intelligence Structure a body that brings police, army and intelligence services together under one command to provide security for major events.

Deputy national commissioner for policing Lt. Gen. Tebello Mosikili told reporters Tuesday that authorities were expecting protests in Johannesburg and other major South African cities. "We will allow that right (to protest) to be exercised," she said. "But within the proper directives and proper confines of the law."



Workers fix a road in Johannesburg's Soweto township as a massive cleanup job gets underway in anticipation of the upcoming G20 summit to be held in the South African economic capital, Friday, Nov. 14, 2025

(AP Photo/Jerome Delay)

South African police said they have designated specific areas for protesters to gather near the summit venue, an exhibition center next to the country's biggest soccer stadium. The head of Airports Company South Africa, which runs the main international airports,

said it had set up "speakers' corners" in airports where protesters would be "kindly" taken by security if they stage demonstrations when world leaders arrive. The two-day summit opens on Saturday and is expected to attract leaders and top diplomats from more

than 40 countries as well as global institutions like the United Nations, the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the World Trade Organization.

Protests planned

Demonstrations are expected from anti-capitalists, climate activists, wom-

en's rights campaigners, anti-migrant groups and others, some of which are raising South Africa's own problems with poverty and inequality.

A trade union representing members of South Africa's Afrikaner white minority has already stoked controversy by putting up billboards around Johannesburg that say: "Welcome to the most RACE-REGULATED country in the world." One of the boards was taken down by city authorities, prompting the Afrikaner trade union, Solidarity, to threaten legal action. The billboards are in reference to South Africa's affirmative action laws that advance opportunities for Black people and have become part of a diplomatic fallout between South Africa and the United States. U.S. President Donald Trump won't attend the G20 summit in a boycott over his claims that South Africa's Black-led government is pursuing racist, anti-white policies and violently persecuting its Afrikaner minority. □

'Too little, too late:' Former UK government slammed for its initial COVID-19 response

By **PAN PYLAS** Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — A public inquiry released Thursday slammed the U.K.'s initial response to the coronavirus pandemic in the early months of 2020 as "too little, too late," saying the failure to lock down the country earlier "led to an unacceptable loss of life."

The inquiry, chaired by former judge Heather Hallett, found that chaos at the heart of the then Conservative government and a failure to take COVID-19 seriously potentially cost 23,000 lives in England alone the first wave of the pandemic.

Hallett's report on the government response to COVID-19 the second of four topics on the pandemic that she is assessing found that the prime minister at the time, Boris Johnson,

presided over a "toxic" culture in Downing Street and regularly changed his mind, while leading cabinet members as well as key scientists all failed to act with the urgency needed to tackle the virus.

After weeks of rising cases and days after most other European nations had gone into lockdown, Johnson announced a U.K.-wide lockdown on March 23, 2020, arguably the biggest decision of any Brit-

ish prime minister since the end of World War II.

Hallett said the actions of the U.K. government, as well as those of the devolved nations Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland were "too little, too late."

"Had the lockdown been imposed one week earlier than March 23, the evidence suggests that the number of deaths in England alone in the first wave up until July 1 2020 would have been reduced by 48%," Hallett said. "That is approximately 23,000 fewer deaths."

She said that the lockdown could have been shorter were it introduced earlier. The U.K. suffered one of the deadliest COVID-19 outbreaks in Europe, with about 240,000 virus-related deaths.

The report took aim at several individuals, includ-

ing Johnson, who was accused of being too "optimistic" in his outlook in the early months of 2020. Hallett said his special adviser, Dominic Cummings, used "offensive, sexualized and misogynistic" language as he "poisoned" the atmosphere at the heart of the government.

The COVID-19 Bereaved Families for Justice campaigning group welcomed Hallett's findings and put the blame for much of the failings in the U.K. on Johnson, who had been hospitalized himself in the early days of the pandemic with the virus.

Hallett is overseeing a national inquiry into all aspects of the handling of the pandemic. The inquiry started two years ago and is expected to run until 2027. Its current focus concerns children. □



FILE - In this March 17, 2020 file photo British Prime Minister Boris Johnson gives a news conference about the ongoing situation with the COVID-19 coronavirus outbreak inside 10 Downing Street in London.

(AP Photo/Matt Dunham, Pool)

Fire disrupts UN climate talks just as negotiators reach critical final days

By **SETH BORENSTEIN, MELINA WALLING and ANTON L. DELGADO** Associated Press
BELEM, Brazil (AP) — Fire disrupted United Nations climate talks in Brazil on Thursday, forcing evacuations of several buildings with just two scheduled days left and negotiators yet to announce any major agreements. Officials said no one was hurt.

The fire was reported in an area of pavilions where sideline events are held during the annual talks, known this year as COP30. Organizers soon announced that the fire was under control, but fire officials ordered the entire site evacuated for safety checks and it wasn't clear when conference business would resume.

Viliami Vainga Tone, with the Tonga delegation, had just come out of a high-level ministerial meeting when dozens of people came thundering past him shouting about the fire. He was among people pushed out of the venue by Brazilian and United Nations security forces.

Tone called time the most precious resource at COP



Security officials direct attendees to leave the venue for the COP30 U.N. Climate Summit, Thursday, Nov. 20, 2025, in Belem, Brazil.

and said he was disappointed it's even shorter due to the fire.

"We have to keep up our optimism. There is always tomorrow, if not the remainder of today. But at least we have a full day tomorrow," Tone told The Associated Press.

A few hours before the fire, U.N. Secretary-General António Guterres urged

countries to compromise and "show willingness and flexibility to deliver results," even if they fall short of the strongest measures some nations want.

"We are down to the wire and the world is watching Belem," Guterres said, asking negotiators to engage in good faith in the last two scheduled days of talks, which already missed

a self-imposed deadline Wednesday for progress on a few key issues. The conference, with this year's edition known as COP30, frequently runs longer than its scheduled two weeks.

"Communities on the front lines are watching, too counting flooded homes, failed harvests, lost livelihoods and asking, 'how much more must we suf-

fer?'" Guterres said. "They've heard enough excuses and demand results."

On contentious issues involving more detailed plans to phase out fossil fuels and financial aid to poorer countries, Guterres said he was "perfectly convinced" that compromise was possible and dismissed the idea that not adopting the strongest measures would be a failure.

Guterres was more forceful in what he wanted rich countries to do for poor countries, especially those in need of tens of billions of dollars to adapt to the floods, droughts, storms and heat waves triggered by worsening climate change. He continued calls to triple adaptation finance from \$40 billion a year to \$120 billion a year. Officials from nations battered by natural disasters gave emotional testimony earlier this week imploring the world to stop talking and start acting.

"No delegation will leave Belem with everything it wants, but every delegation has a duty to reach a balanced deal," Guterres said. □

(AP Photo/Andre Penner)

Colombia's Petro releases bank records to counter US drug claims, sparking backlash over spending

By **ASTRID SUÁREZ** Associated Press

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP) — Colombian president Gustavo Petro has publicly released his bank records in an effort to demonstrate he has no ties to drug trafficking, an unsubstantiated claim made by U.S. President Donald Trump.

Colombia's Financial Information and Analysis Unit this week began releasing the president's bank statements to the press from 2022 to June of this year after the president ordered their release on Monday.

"Don't you find it alarming that my bank accounts and transactions contradict President (Donald) Trump's assessment of a president democratically elected by Colombians?" Petro wrote Wednesday on

the social network X.

Petro is referring to the sanctions imposed by the U.S. Treasury Department on him, first lady Verónica Alcocer, and his eldest son Nicolás Petro, all of whom were accused of drug trafficking links without evidence.

However, analysts are skeptical that publishing his accounts will achieve this goal, warning that the move has instead sparked a public debate about his private life.

If there were alleged drug trafficking transactions, they "surely will not appear in the president's accounts," Yann Basset, a professor of political science at the Universidad del Rosario, told The Associated Press, adding that he does not believe Petro's move

will convince experts or the United States.

It is "more an act of transparency toward the public," Basset said.

The released accounts have so far shown no sign of suspicious transactions but have revealed payments for a house mortgage, purchases at stores like Gucci and Ralph Lauren, and a transaction at a strip club. This has led to criticism from the local press. "Your analysis is quite immature," Petro wrote on X Wednesday after being questioned about his spending. "It implies that if you're a socialist you'll starve, because all food in capitalism involves buying goods."

Petro came to power on a platform that directly challenged concentrated power groups, promising

structural changes to significantly reduce Colombia's inequality and poverty.

"All of this is generating an additional, and completely unnecessary, debate about the president's

spending," said Sandra Borda, a professor of political science at the University of Los Andes. "I think it could negatively affect people's perception of Petro's social commitment." □



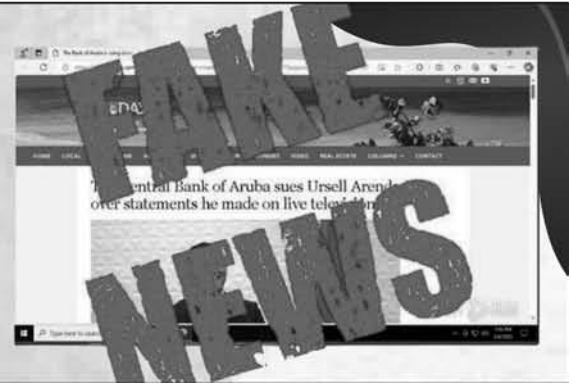
Colombian President Gustavo Petro speaks during the swearing-in ceremony of Gen. William Rincon as the new national police director in Bogota, Colombia, Friday, Oct. 24, 2025.

AP Photo/Ivan Valencia)

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Coordinated operation across Europe dismantles antiquities smuggling ring

SOFIA, Bulgaria (AP) — Law enforcement agencies working across several countries dismantled a sophisticated criminal network trafficking stolen cultural goods across Europe, Bulgarian authorities said Thursday.

A coordinated international operation spanning seven countries working with Eurojust and Europol led to the arrest of 35 suspects linked to a smuggling ring that was attempting to sell thousands of ancient artifacts stolen from museums across Europe. Around 20 people face charges of antiquities trafficking and money laundering, Bulgarian Prosecutor Angel Kanev told a news briefing.

Kanev said the criminal group has been operating in Western Europe, the Balkans, the United States and other countries for over 16



This image released on Thursday, Nov. 20, 2025 shows antique artefacts as law enforcement agencies working across several countries dismantled a sophisticated criminal network trafficking stolen cultural goods across Europe, Bulgarian authorities said.

(AP Photo via Bulgarian Interior Ministry)

years. The money laundering investigation has so far identified over \$1 billion in

illicit funds. On Wednesday, judicial and law enforcement authorities from Alba-

nia, Bulgaria, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, and the United Kingdom ex-

cuted coordinated actions in their respective countries. According to a Europol news release, the operation included 131 searches of houses, vehicles and bank safes in those countries. More than 3,000 artifacts were seized, including antique golden and silver coins and other antiquities with an estimated value of over 100 million euros (\$116 million). Other seized items included artworks, weapons, documents, electronic equipment, large amounts of cash, and investment gold. Paolo Befera, deputy head of the Italian Carabinieri's specialized cultural heritage protection directorate, hailed the operation as "the largest of this manner ever conducted," noting that in Italy alone, around 300 historical artifacts were seized from the alleged traffickers. □

Brussels hosts talks on Gaza reconstruction, security and governance

By **SAM McNEIL Associated Press**

BRUSSELS (AP) — More than 60 delegations met Thurs-

day in Brussels to discuss reconstruction, governance and security in the Gaza Strip, and a proposed re-

form of the Palestinian Authority. Co-chaired by France and Saudi Arabia, the meeting of the Palestine Donor Group, centered on the Palestinian Authority reforms outlined in a U.S. peace plan that won approval at the U.N. Security Council on Monday.

The Palestinian Authority, which administers semi-autonomous pockets in the Israeli-occupied West Bank, is making a renewed push to become a player in postwar Gaza.

"Reunifying the two under one legitimate government, one law and one administration is not a slogan," said Palestinian

Prime Minister Mohammad Mustafa. "It's the only workable path to stability and to accountable governance."

He also called for Israel to pay "significantly, if not fully for repairing the damage (in Gaza) and contributing to the reconstruction effort." The European Union, the Palestinian Authority's largest financial supporter, hopes it can effectively rule Gaza after deep reforms. But Washington is demanding that the Palestinian Authority make reforms first, and Israel rejects any role for it in Gaza.

The meeting won't seek financial pledges for Gaza's reconstruction. An upcoming

event in Egypt is being planned to raise that money.

While not a central player so far in the negotiations over the territory's future, the EU is increasingly vocal about securing a role in shaping postwar Gaza.

The 27-nation bloc is planning to train 3,000 Palestinian police officers to secure the Gaza Strip.

French Foreign Minister Jean-Noël Barrot pledged 100 French police officers for that mission. "Palestinians have to be the ones leading and owning the processes that are happening in Palestine," EU foreign policy chief Kaja Kallas said. □



FILE -Palestinian Prime Minister Mohammad Mustafa talks during a joint press conference with European Union's foreign policy chief Kaja Kallas, following their meeting at his office in the West Bank city of Ramallah, March 24, 2025.

(AP Photo/Nasser Nasser, Pool, File)

Aruban snacks and where to find them



ORANJESTAD — Want to taste something different for a change? How about some Aruban snacks that you can find all around the island? Hop in your car, and go to these locations to find some of the most popular and tasty snacks that are beloved by our locals.

One of the staples of Aruban cuisine and snacks is the Pastechi. Pastechi is a Caribbean fried pastry that is filled with cheese, meat, chicken, veggies and sometimes even fish! Or perhaps you might want to try a croquette, locally called a "kroket," which is a crusty fried snack with typically a meat and dough mix filling. The Aruban kroket is based on its Dutch counterpart, the "bitterbal".

These two snacks are typically found in all local

snack trucks, which can be found all over the island, including on the side of the main road that stretches from San Nicolas to the Hotel Area. You can also find them at local bakeries all over the island. These places may also sell other snacks and sandwiches too, perfect for on-the-road lunch break.

While you're at it, why not accompany your snack with a refreshing "batido"? Batidos are fruit shakes, typically made with added milk for some creaminess. However, you can also ask to hold the milk. Batidos are commonly found in snack shops too. You may find some batidos along the flea market downtown.

If you are looking for some-

thing a bit more fresh and healthy, why not try some coconuts, or shaved ice from local vendors? These vendors carry their little shop at the back of their truck, so they are ever-moving around the island. However, there are a few spots where you can almost always find a coconut/shaved ice vendor:

- Right next to the Red Anchor in San Nicolas, on the way to Baby Beach.
- Along the main road next to the airport field.
- At the California Light House.
- At the Alto Vista Chapel.

These vendors may also sell other delights, like the beloved coconut-based dessert "cocada" or peanuts.



All in all, in Aruba, you can always find some place to take a break and have a bite of something local, you maybe just might have

to look for them! □

Photo credit: wheninaruba.com

Aruba to me

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World Diabetes Day 2025 Event at the Hilton Aruba Caribbean Resort & Casino

Palm Beach – Fundacion Diabetes Aruba (FDA) hosted a half-day awareness and screening event focused on “diabetes in the workplace” at the resort on November 14, 2025 encouraging team members to “know more and do more.”

The purpose of the event was to educate team members on diabetes prevention and management through practical, workplace-focused sessions and on-site health screenings. Participants were empowered with knowledge and tools to help maintain a healthier work environment and make informed lifestyle choices.

Throughout the morning, team members took part in five, expert-led, 20-minute

interactive sessions. These sessions covered topics such as workplace exercises to improve circulation and overall health; foot care, including recognizing early warning signs and preventing diabetic foot complications; smart eating strategies that can be applied during busy shifts and demanding personal schedules; and stress management, with a focus on understanding the connection between work-related stress, irregular hours, and blood glucose levels. In addition to the educational sessions, team members had access to a range of health checks and screenings, including blood sugar, blood pressure, waist circumference, weight, and BMI measurements. Eye screenings for early detection of complications were also offered, along with foot and shoe assessments and personalized one-on-one consultations with a dietitian and physical therapists.



The overall event was a great success with team members actively partici-

pating and showing genuine interest in the topics presented. Team members gained

valuable insights and practical tips they can apply in their daily routines. □

Another treasure of Aruba's beaches: Sea Glass!



(Oranjestad)—It is hard to imagine this happening today, but years ago people dumped all kinds of refuse straight into the ocean, including old cars, and their household garbage, which of course included lots of glass. Over the next 30 years the pounding waves cleaned the beach, by breaking down everything but glass and pottery. The pounding waves washed the trash up and down, back and forth. Tons of polished, broken glass pieces were created by the pounding

surf. These smoothened, colored glass particles then settled along the sea shore in millions, and that is why you can find these beautiful and colorful pieces on the north shore beaches of Aruba.

Especially on the strip on white sand between the famous Natural Bridge" and the huge red anchor close to "Grapefield" beach you will be able to find your own pieces of sea glass. The sea glass that was created is the product of a very long and interesting process.

It can take anywhere from 10 to 30 years to make sea glass.

The name for any piece of glass that finds its way to the ocean and tumbles around in the water long enough is "Sea glass.

The colorful pieces of glass are being used for decoration, handcrafts and jewelry!

Once glass makes its way into the ocean, the glass is broken up into shards and is tumbled around in the water, where sand and other rocks act like sandpaper to smooth out its rough edges.

Sometimes as the sea glass is passed through fire, it becomes fire glass, the rarest of sea glass with certain inclusions, just like precious gems.

For years, the water beat against the different kinds of trash being dumped. Glass,

household appliances and even motor parts were discarded on the beach. The waves and weather conditions wore down the overwhelming amount of garbage in the water, creating millions of beautiful smooth rocks.

It's hard to believe the short-sighted mistakes we were making that could have potentially ruined these beautiful beaches. But thanks to natural processes, the ocean transformed the trash into the sea glass.

Each colored gem on the beach has its own story.

The ruby red glass stones are typically from old car tail-lights.

Then, the sapphire rocks are the remnants of broken apothecary bottles. The most common and the easiest to find are the brown, green and clear glass.

If you like to see the sea glass for yourself, and be in awe of the power of nature, rent a car or jeep and go explore our deserted beaches on the north side of the island. Make it a fun family day!

Even if we didn't mean to pollute the Beaches how we did, it is inspiring to see just how the earth can correct our mistakes.

Funny, how trash can change into treasures!

Everybody knows that you are not allowed to take local shells home, but the people working at the airport have no problem you taking sea glass home. A few of those pieces make great souvenirs. You can place them in a wine glass or large bottle for decoration and every time you look at it a smile will light up your face thinking back of your unforgettable Aruba vacation! □

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A brief history of the California Light House



(Oranjestad)—At the furthest western point of the island, there lies the tallest structure on the island: The California Light House. Standing on top of a limestone cliff, this lighthouse oversees the entire island, offering one of few best views of the island and the surrounding sea. It is also one of the few monuments that hold a rich history.

The lighthouse was constructed in between 1914-1916, and its first keeper was a young trained lighthouse keeper from Curacao names Jacob Jacobs. Mr. Frederico Fingal was the last man to have occupied this position until 1962. Though his son, Mr. Romulo Fingal did not continue in his father's footsteps, he does have a special connection to the lighthouse. He sat down with our reporter and shared a bit of its history.

As Mr. Fingal explains, "In 1915, cargo donkeys were hired from Figaroa di Noord to help build the Lighthouse at Westpunt. The donkeys had to walk along the beach all the way to Westpunt carrying the cargo, poles, cement, and all these things. At that time, it was a difficult task until Aruba got its first truck.

These things reflect how people could have accomplished this tremendous job with so little." Mr. Fingal said, "At that time, it wasn't a place for people to work. It was very chal-

lenging because it was full of goats and donkeys, and it was very isolated. There were no hotels or roads to get there. There was only a donkey trail. Those were the only means of transportation."

Mr. Fingal continues, "In 1939, I was born in the lighthouse, and my father was the last lighthouse keeper until he retired in 1962. After that, they removed the power cables all the way to the top. According to the story, we couldn't have the light ourselves because they dismantled it, and after many years, I heard that it is in a train museum in San Nicolas, where we found this very special lens that, when the light shines through it, it reaches 30 kilometers out to sea." Mr. Fingal told our reporter.

The lighthouse has a long and very interesting history. The reason why the lighthouse was built, according to Mr. Fingal, dates back to the day when the cargo ship S.S. California sank because of the lack of light. In 1913, Aruba made a request to Curacao to build a Lighthouse at Westpunt, and the governor of Curacao responded to Aruba to come back in 1915 with a well-detailed plan. "During the First World War from 1914 to 1918, they had to wait for the light to be transported to Aruba because it was manufactured in France. At that time, there was no electricity, and the light was very interesting because it rotated with a kerosene lamp that planes used; clean kerosene," Mr. Fingal said.

Mr. Fingal discovered something very interesting about the lighthouse after much research was documented in his book 'History of the Lighthouse at Westpunt.' He found many details: "I found out that the height of the lighthouse was due to the absence of electricity. There was also the presence of coral. There is a long steel cable from where the light is, and



under the light, at the highest point, there is a hanging weight, a sort of pendulum that swings like that, with a weight that measures about 1 meter by 30 centimeters wide, which is a block of solid iron attached to a cable. When you release it upwards, it comes down, and the weight that comes down pulls it up, gradually. And while it comes down, the same weight that is descending causes many small wheels to turn in the opposite direction. The Lighthouse rotates from 6 pm in the evening, when the sun sets, until 6 am in the morning. During the entire night, the light shines on the lantern, it goes down 24 meters, and the Lighthouse is 30 meters high. It is designed not to collapse," Mr. Fingal explains.

Mr. Fingal further explains that in one night, the lighthouse rotates 4,320 times and consumes one gallon of kerosene for the whole operation. "At that time, the kerosene was supplied from the Lago refinery. Every day it was brought down, and to start the light again, they had to lift the weight up, so our job as children was to crank it and raise the weight back up in the evening when the light stuck, they would take it down again, and the light stayed down. That's how it worked for a very long time," Mr. Fingal explains.

Thanks to the Monument Fund Aruba, which worked hard and is currently in charge of the Lighthouse, Mr. Fingal is very happy with its preservation, along with all the renovations that have taken place. He hopes that the story of the lighthouse will continue to live on for future generations.

Special announcement from the Monument Fund Aruba for 2025

Starting Monday, October 13th, until the end of 2025, the California Lighthouse will be closed to the public. The reasoning behind this is that the lighthouse is due for a major maintenance.

Stichting Monumentenfonds Aruba (SMFA) is the owner of the lighthouse and operates under a maintenance plan in which each year, different monuments belonging to the foundation receive upkeep. Recently, work was completed on the Casita Geel on Weststraat, and now it will continue with the California Lighthouse.

Due to the lighthouse's location and its daily use, it is one of the monuments that requires a lot of maintenance. The work is expected to last approximately two and a half months. □

Aruba's neighborhoods; the meaning behind their names; Ayo & Alto Vista



(Oranjestad)—Just like any other country, Aruba has unique and beautifully named neighborhoods that all form a part of its culture and development. Many of these names have a historical background and meaning that teaches us about the island and its rich culture every day.

With this series, we want to take you on a journey of discovery, where you'll learn not only the beautiful names but the history behind it that gives it life and meaning.

Ayo

Ajo, or Ayo, is a word with Arawak-Indian origin. A (or Ha) is an Indo-Antillean generalizing word. If you were to change a part of the word "Ayo", namely 'Yo', to 'Yu' and make 'Ayu', it would mean "white."

However, as we now know, the name of the neighborhood is 'Ayo'. The word 'Yo' stands for Yocahu, which is another word for 'creator' in Arawak/Taino and in the Papiamentu spoken today, 'Ayo' means 'bye'.

At Ayo, you can find some of the most well known rock formations. These formations became a well loved and visited attraction at Aruba that is held in high regards by both tourists and locals alike.

If you'd like to know more about the rock formations at Ayo, stay tuned for our article where we tell you all about its location and history.

This neighborhood's abbreviation is; A.



Alto Vista

This word combination can be roughly translated to a 'high point of view' and the

neighborhood received this name from the Hill.

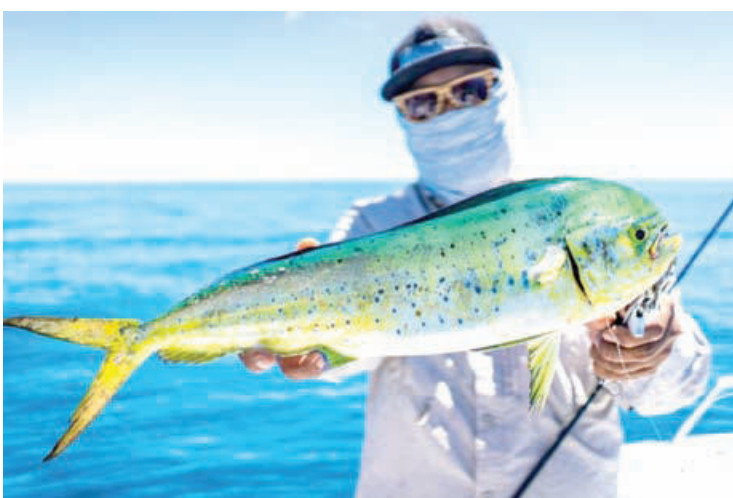
In the surrounding areas,

Domingo Antonia Silvestre built his by his own means the very first chapel or church of Aruba. The walls of this church were made with rocks but the roof was made of dry corn stalks. The church was inaugurated by father Pablo Algemesi.

If you'd like to know more about the Alto Vista Church's beautiful history, stay tuned for our article where we tell you all you need to know about it for when you visit it.

This neighborhood's abbreviation is; AV.□

Planning on snorkeling? Get to know our "Dorado"



(Oranjestad)—If you're ever planning on snorkeling during your vacation on Aruba, you may spot fish that you can't recognize. One of these may be the "Dorado", a common fish that swims all year long in the waters of Aruba. Here's some information about the beloved Dorado.

Dorado has many different names it can be referred to. Dral, Dorao, Drals, Drado, are some of them in Papiamentu. In English, it is also called Mahi Mahi, Dolphin-fish, or Dorado. It's a good example to reflect on why there can be many names. The same fish becomes known by different common names, why? Common

names come only when a group of people, to understand each other, assign a name to a fish. Mahi Mahi, for example, comes from Hawaii and means "very strong". Dorado is based on Spanish and refers to the golden yellow color that the fish shines with under the sun. Why it's called Dolphin-fish in English is not well defined and while there are several stories around this, none have been confirmed.

Dorado is found in all tropical to subtropical oceans around the world. Dorado is very popular both for recreational fishing and for consumption. It is known among fishermen as an exciting catch and a fish that puts up a good fight. Its meat is very good for consumption and it is also commercially

fished for that reason.

They grow very fast, up to 2.7 inches (almost 7 cm) per week. They can live up to a maximum of 5 years although very few reach that age. Most become adults within 1 year but many become reproductive after just 5 or 6 months and reproduce very quickly too.

They live in open water on the surface most of the time. Many fish seek them around sushi lines or floating objects on the sea. Often you will find a group landing together and if you keep a male on the line, often the others will stay close or can keep the group interested by giving shrimp or squid.

Description:

Dorado has a distinctive body. It has a large tail and

its long, flat body ends in a large blunt head. Its color of yellow and green or blue makes it immediately recognizable, even with small variations in these colors.

Dorado has clear differences between adult females and males. The male is larger and can easily reach 50 to 80 pounds and has a much flatter head compared to the female. Therefore, male Dorados are also called "bull Dorado".

Dorado can be found in our waters around the island all year round, but there are periods when it is easier to find than others.□

Source: The Department of Agriculture, Livestock, and Fisheries (Santa Rosa).

Basic driving rules on Aruba: Traffic signs

(Oranjestad)—Though Aruba's traffic is relatively easy to manage, driving here—especially if it's your first time visiting—can be foreign. To help you out, here's a breakdown of some traffic signs you might encounter on the road.

Speed limit in certain areas

As mentioned in yesterday's issue, the legal minimum and maximum speed limit on the island is 50 and 80 km/h respectively. However, there are some areas where it is mandated to drive up to a certain speed. This is always indicated by a circular traffic sign with red border and the number 50 on it. Signs like these are always paired by a similar sign with the number crossed out further down the road. This means that the mandate for this speed is now over; you may increase your velocity. Red borders on traffic sign—whether it's a circle or triangle—usually signal a warning, prohibition or preference.

Besides the "50" sign, you may also encounter a traffic sign that says "bebou-

wde kom". These can be found in San Nicolas and Oranjestad. Bebouwde kom signs are rectangular and blue, and essentially tell you that you are in a heavily inhabited area. The maximum speed limit in a bebouwde kom is 50 km/h. Just like the previous pair, bebouwde kom signs are also paired with a similar sign crossed out. Priority signs

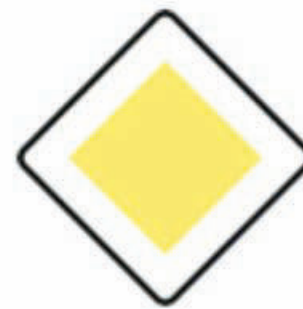
On the main roads of Aruba (not the highways), you may see a yellow, squared sign with a white border. This sign tells you that on this road, you have priority and all other traffic should yield to you. This sign can be seen in Savaneta for example. So, if you are driving on the main road in Savaneta going to San Nicolas, you are driving on a single long road, and other cars that want to get on this main road or cross it, either from an intersection or from a dirt road, must all wait until traffic on the main road is clear. In other words, you do not have to stop for them. This sign too has a counter part that indicates

that your priority is over.

Another priority sign you may encounter is a triangle sign with a red border and something that looks like a cross. You'll see this sign in an intersection. The general rule of thumb for crossing an intersection that do not contain traffic lights, roundabouts, sign or arrows on the road, is to always yield for traffic on your right. However, if you encounter this sign on your side of the intersection, you have priority over the other cars, even the one on your right.

However, be careful not to confuse this sign with a similar up-side down triangle, also found on intersections. This sign is a prohibition sign, telling you that you have to stop and give other cars priority. Of course you also have a "stop" sign that mean the same thing. The stop sign is generally used for tricky intersections with minimal view of opposite incoming traffic.

These are some of the basic rules that you would have to know if you decide



to drive on the island. These are of course other traffic signs, and we recommend you visit aruba-travelguide.com for an extensive over-

view of all traffic signs used on Aruba. □

Picture credits:
aruba-travelguide.com

Blackstone Beach



(Oranjestad)—Named after its most recognizable feature, the Blackstone Beach almost represents the opposite of the typical Aruban beaches. For one, it has black sand and is covered in black smooth stones. Secondly, it lies on the northern side of the island, away from the white sandy beaches of in the southern region. So, if you feel up for something different—or if it's opposite day, visit the Blackstone Beach.

Blackstone Beach shows the more natural side of Aruba; the stones that cover the beach and the shape of it has been crafted for thousands of years through volcanic eruptions, coral reef movements and wave activity of the rural northern part of the island. Located further east to the Natural Bridge and Andicuri Beach, the Blackstone Beach is relatively easy to access. Once you get passed the Ayo Rock Formation, take the Andicuri road leading up to Andicuri Beach. There, you can park your car and take a 1km hike towards Blackstone Beach.

This beach forms part of the Arikok National Park and is therefore a site that is preserved. This is why it is also relatively untouched by commercial influences. Despite being called a beach, do note that it is not advised to swim in the water, as the current is very strong and can easily stray you further in the wild ocean. However, you can still enjoy a spectacular view of the stones and the northern ocean that stretches out in front of the beach and take a picture with your friends or family! □

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

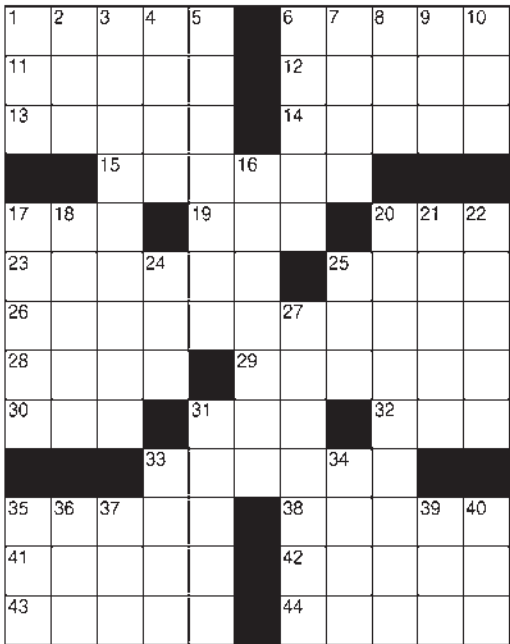
- 1 Hay sites
6 Stylist's spot
11 "Cats" poet
12 Banish
13 Film category
14 African grassland
15 Tooth layer
17 Gadot of "Wonder Woman"
19 Impair
20 Diet no-no
23 Out of bed
25 Trig function
26 They say they're free, in life
28 Yard units
29 Flip
30 Snaky shape
31 Cove
32 Stew sphere
33 Bill collector, of a sort
35 November birthstone
38 Heap of fiction
41 Not dozing
42 Simpleton
43 Floppy cap
44 Door sign

DOWN

- 1 Relay section
2 Corrida cry
3 Small distinctions
4 Tattered
5 Clambake clam
6 Cut off
7 Skating jump
8 Rap's — Nas X
9 Outdated
10 Pay stub line
16 Snare
17 Social blunder
18 Spring sign

S P E A R Y A N K
P O P P A M E L O N
A L I E N E A G L E
C A T S K A R A T E
E R A P I C E E L
R I P P E D U P
S H A D L I A R
Z I P P E D U P
C O P C I A M I A
O P E N U P S I N G
D E C O R M A R I O
E R A S E E L A N D
S A N E H E L G A

- 20 Contract details
21 Trig topic
22 Physicist Nikola
24 Ready to go
25 Pop's daughter
27 Hit song of 1968
31 "Carmen" composer
33 Confiscate
34 Give — for one's money
35 Bar bill
36 Need to pay
37 Golf goal
39 Hole in one
40 That woman



11-30

A X Y D L B A A X R
is L O N G F E L L O W

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

11-30

CRYPTOQUOTE

R G B X I B A I U B F Z L K B H A K D A C

L X P Z K D H A K D A C , J G B D Z L X

F J K L E M G J B X A C J D A C K F A C U .

— U L X M F J A X G C M G B F

Cryptoquote: HOME ISN'T WHERE YOU'RE FROM; IT'S WHERE YOU FIND LIGHT WHEN ALL GROWS DARK. — PIERCE BROWN

Cruise ship Schedule: Nov. 17 - 23 2025

			ARR	DEPT	BERTH	CALLS
MON	17	CELEBRITY ASCENT	08.00	18.00	C	1
TUE	18	BRITANNIA	07.00	18.00	B	1
		SERENADE OF THE SEAS	08.00	23.00	C	1
		OASIS OF THE SEAS	08.00	23.00	I	1
WED	19	CELEBRITY SILHOUETTE	08.00	23.00	B	1
		OCEANIA ALLURA	10.00	22.00	C	1
		FREEWINDS	06.00	****	E	1
THU	20	AIDASOL	08.00	18.00	B	1
		CARIBBEAN PRINCESS	09.00	22.00	C	1
SAT	22	AIDAPERLA	09.00	22.00	C	1
		ROYAL CLIPPER	09.00	18.00	B	1
SUN	23	MSC DIVINA	08.00	18.00	C	1
		FREEWINDS - Dept.	****	22.30	E	-

Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basic but important information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.



Electrical power

Aruba generally operates on 110V to 127V supply voltage and 60Hz. There are also three types of outlets used on the island: type A with two flat prongs; type B with two flat and one grounding prong, and on occasion, type F with two round prong and two earth clips on the side. However, Type A is most commonly found in homes and establishments.



Safety

Since February 2024, Aruba has been categorized as the safest country in the Caribbean by The Telegraph, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occurs, so keep yourself and your belongings safe.



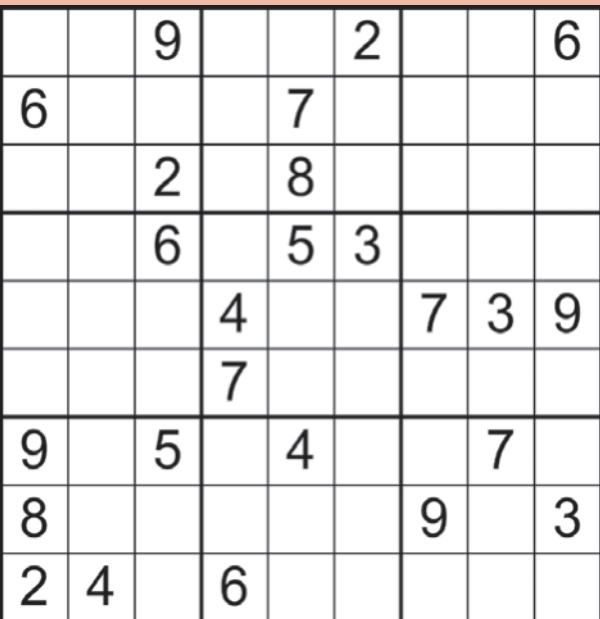
Drinking water

The water that flows through the sinks of every house, hotels and other establishments is distilled and perfectly safe to drink. Aruba's drinking water exceeds WHO's international standards for water quality, so there is no need to buy bottled water from the store.

SUDOKU

To play sudoku, use logic to fill the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the numbers 1-9 only once. Puzzle difficulty increases from Monday to Sunday.

King Classic Sudoku



Difficulty: ★★★★★

11/21

Answer to previous puzzle

3	4	5	8	1	2	6	9	7
1	9	2	7	6	5	4	8	3
7	6	8	9	3	4	2	1	5
4	2	6	1	5	3	8	7	9
8	5	1	4	7	9	3	6	2
9	3	7	2	8	6	1	5	4
5	1	4	3	9	8	7	2	6
2	7	9	6	4	1	5	3	8
6	8	3	5	2	7	9	4	1

Difficulty: ★★★

11/20

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NASA unveils close-up pictures of the comet popping by from another star

By **MARCIA DUNN** AP Aerospace Writer

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP)

— NASA unveiled close-up pictures on Wednesday of the interstellar comet that's making a quick one-and-done tour of the solar system.

Discovered over the summer, the comet known as 3I/Atlas is only the third confirmed object to visit our corner of the cosmos from another star. It zipped harmlessly past Mars last month.

Three NASA spacecraft on and near the red planet zoomed in on the comet as it passed just 18 million miles (29 million kilometers) away, revealing a fuzzy white blob. The European Space Agency's two satellites around Mars also made observations.

Other NASA spacecraft will remain on the lookout in the weeks ahead, including the Webb Space Telescope. At the same time,



This photo provided by Gianluca Masi shows the interstellar comet 3I/Atlas as it streaks through space, 190 million miles from Earth, on Wednesday, Nov. 19, 2025. The image was taken from Manciano, Italy.

(Gianluca Masi via AP)

astronomers are aiming their ground telescopes at the approaching comet, which is about 190 million miles (307 million kilometers) from Earth. The Virtual Telescope Project's Gianluca Masi zoomed in Wednesday from Italy.

The comet is visible from Earth in the predawn sky by using binoculars or a tele-

scope.

"Everyone that is in control of a telescope wants to look at it because it's a fascinating and rare opportunity," said NASA's acting astrophysics director, Shawn Domagal-Goldman.

The closest the comet will come to Earth is 167 million miles (269 million kilometers) in mid-December.

Then it will hightail it back into interstellar space, never to return.

ESA's Juice spacecraft, bound for Jupiter, has been training its cameras and scientific instruments on the comet all month, particularly after it made its closest pass to the sun. But scientists won't get any of these observations back until February because Juice's main antenna is serving as a heat shield while it's near the sun, limiting the flow of data.

Named for the telescope in Chile that first spotted it, the comet is believed to be anywhere from 1,444 feet (440 meters) across to 3.5 miles (5.6 kilometers) across. Observations indicate that the exceptionally fast-moving comet may have originated in a star system older than our own "which gives me goose bumps to think about," said NASA scientist Tom Statler. □

Meta's chief AI scientist Yann LeCun to leave Meta and start new AI research company



Yann LeCun, Meta's chief AI scientist, speaks at the Vivattech show in Paris, France, Wednesday, June 14, 2023.

(AP Photo/Thibault Camus, File)

By **MATT O'BRIEN** AP Technology Writer

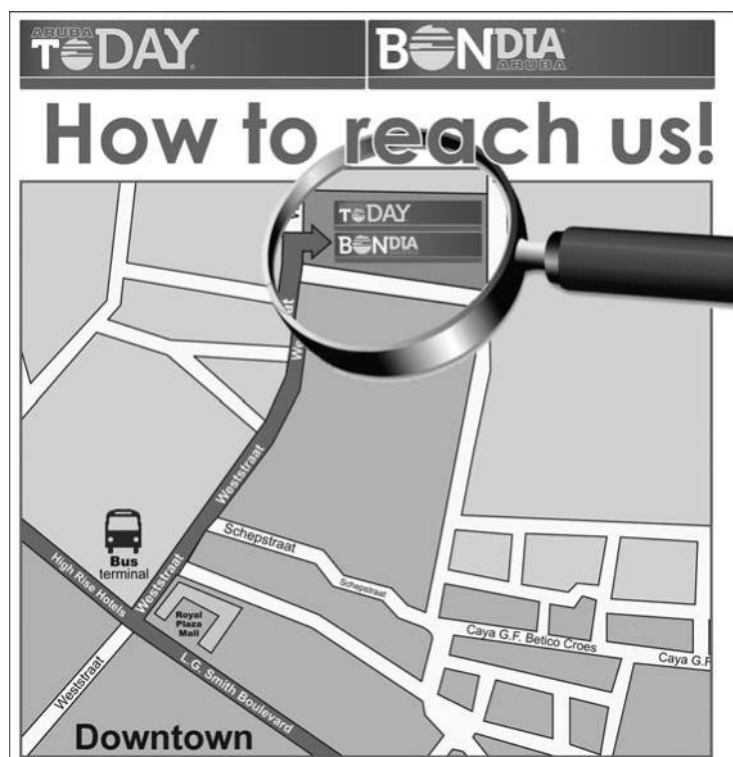
Artificial intelligence pioneer Yann LeCun said Wednesday he will be leaving his job as Meta's chief AI scientist at the end of the year.

LeCun said he will be forming a startup company to pursue research on advanced forms of AI that

can "understand the physical world, have persistent memory, can reason, and can plan complex action sequences."

His announcement, after more than a week of ru-

mors, comes after Meta Platforms, the parent company of Facebook, Instagram and WhatsApp, began cutting roughly 600 AI jobs this fall. □



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San Nicolas

Imsan 24 hours
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del Pueblo: Tel. 582 1253

San Nicolas:

Aloe: Tel. 584 4606

OTHER

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Blood Bank Aruba 587 0002
Urgent Care 586 0448
Walk-In Doctor's Clinic
+297 588 0539

EMERGENCY

Police	100
Oranjestad	527 3140
Noord	527 3200
Sta. Cruz	527 2900
San Nicolas	584 5000
Police Tipline	11141
Ambulancia	911
Fire Dept.	115
Red Cross	582 2219

TAXI SERVICES

Taxi Tas	587 5900
Prof. Taxi	588 0035
Taxi D.T.S.	587 2300
Taxi Serv. Aruba	583 3232
A1 Taxi Serv.	280 2828

TRAVEL INFO

Aruba Airport	524 2424
American Airlines	582 2700
Avianca	588 0059
Jet Blue	588 2244
Surinam	582 7896

AID FOUNDATIONS

Aruba Food Bank
Tel. 588 0002
FAVI- Visually Impaired
Tel. 582 5051
Alcoholics Anonymous
Tel. 736 2952
Narcotics Anonymous
Tel. 583 8989
Fundacion Contra Violencia
Relacional Tel. 583 5400
Centre for Diabetes
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Child Abuse Prevention
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ARUBA TODAY NEWS

Massa lawsuit over 2008 F1 title loss survives attempts to have it thrown out

LONDON (AP) — Felipe Massa's 64 million pounds (\$83 million) claim against Formula 1, its governing body the FIA and Bernie Ecclestone can go to trial, a High Court judge ruled on Thursday.

Lewis Hamilton's first F1 world championship in 2008 is the subject of legal action, with Brazilian driver Massa saying he is the rightful winner of the title.

Massa lost by a single point after Nelson Piquet Jr. supposedly deliberately crashed at the Singapore Grand Prix.

Ecclestone, who was the boss of F1 for four decades before he was deposed in 2017, suggested in 2023 that series executives were aware of the cover-up before the 2008 campaign concluded.

Ecclestone, the FIA and Formula One Management are defending the claims. Last month, they asked the court in London to throw out the case, saying Massa performed poorly in the 2008 Singapore GP, ultimately leading to him losing the championship, and arguing that the claim was brought too late.

In a written judgment issued ahead of this week's Las Vegas GP, Justice Robert Jay said the case could



Former Ferrari Formula One driver Felipe Massa leaves the Royal Courts of Justice in London, Thursday, Oct. 30, 2025 as he takes legal action against Formula One Management Limited. (AP Photo/Kin Cheung)

go ahead. He said Massa had "no real prospect of establishing that the FIA's duties were owed to him" but that "he does have a real prospect of proving at trial all the components of his unlawful means conspiracy."

"The same analysis applies to the inducement claim." In the ruling, the judge dismissed part of Massa's claim, saying he "reached the firm conclusion that it is clear that declaratory relief would not be granted in this

case." At a hearing in October, the court heard that as part of his claim Massa was also seeking various declarations regarding the FIA's conduct.

Justice Jay said, "In my judgment, Mr. Massa is not entitled to claim declaratory relief for reputational or publicity reasons. The present claim cannot of course rewrite the outcome of the 2008 drivers' world championship, but if declaratory relief along the lines sought were granted that is how

Mr. Massa would present his victory to the world and it is also how it would be perceived by the public.

"The second declaration is in the terms that were it not for the FIA's breaches of duty, Mr. Massa would have won the championship: in other words, that he should have won the championship.

"The FIA, as an international sporting body outside the reach of this Court, could and would simply ignore any such declaration.

"That underscores its lack of practical utility, but the declaration comes too close in my view to impinging on the right of the FIA to govern its own affairs."

Race crash supposedly deliberate

At the 2008 Singapore GP, Renault staged a win for Fernando Alonso by ordering Nelson Piquet Jr. to crash, which brought out a safety car and meant Massa, who was leading the race for Ferrari, finished in 13th after his strategy was compromised.

The following season, Piquet revealed he was under instruction by his bosses to crash deliberately.

Massa's lawyers claim Ecclestone knew the crash was deliberate and he and the FIA failed to investigate it. At the October hearing, Nick De Marco KC, for Massa, said in written submissions that the defendants could not "establish that Mr. Massa's claims have no real prospect of success." Adding Massa had "a real prospect of succeeding on all of the grounds," he said the matter should go to a full trial. David Quest KC, for Ecclestone, said Massa's claims were "a misguided attempt to reopen the results of the 2008 F1 drivers' championship." □

Philon scores 24 as No. 11 Alabama beats No. 8 Illinois 90-86

By ANDREW SELIGMAN AP Sports Writer

CHICAGO (AP) — Labaron Philon scored 24 points, and No. 11 Alabama beat eighth-ranked Illinois 90-86 at the United Center on Wednesday night.

Philon made three 3-pointers and had five assists. Taylor Bol Bowen scored 12 and Aden Holloway finished with 11 points, helping the Crimson Tide (3-1) squeeze out a tight win in their third straight game against a top-10 team. They bounced back from a loss to Purdue that came on the heels of a victory over St. John's at Madison Square Garden, though they sure got all they could handle in this one.

Andrej Stojakovic led Illinois (4-1) with 26 points, and Kylan Boswell had 22. Alabama was clinging to a 79-76 lead when Philon pulled up for a 3 with

1:15 remaining, but Illinois stayed in it, with Boswell responding with a three-point play.

After Philon made a jumper in the paint, Boswell broke

for a layup that cut it to 84-81 with 39 seconds remaining. Alabama's Amari Allen got trapped on the inbound, leading to a timeout, and then hit 1 of 2 free throws to make it a four-point game with 27 seconds left.

It was 85-82 with 12 seconds remaining when Keitenn Bristow made two free throws for Alabama. Ben Humrichous nailed a 3 for Illinois with eight seconds left, but the Crimson Tide hung on.

Houston Mallette sealed the win with two foul shots in the final seconds.

The Illini, who played at least one regular-season game at the United Center from 1994 through 2018,

were making their first appearance at the arena since the 2023 Big Ten Tournament.

They got the Bulls treatment during pregame introductions, with "Sirius" by the Alan Parsons Project blasting through the arena. The Illini had the crowd roaring midway through the half when Humrichous blocked a layup by Philon and Stojakovic, the son of former Sacramento Kings star Peja Stojakovic, threw down a thunderous dunk on the break.

Up next

Alabama: Faces No. 13 Gonzaga in Las Vegas on Monday.

Illinois: Hosts Long Island on Saturday. □



Illinois guard Andrej Stojakovic (2) dunks against Alabama during the first half of an NCAA college basketball game in Chicago, Wednesday, Nov. 19, 2025.

(AP Photo/Nam Y. Huh)

Azteca Stadium soul is being preserved in World Cup renovations, director says

By **CARLOS RODRIGUEZ** Associated Press

MÉXICO CITY (AP) — When FIFA boss Gianni Infantino visited Mexico City more than three years ago, the Azteca Stadium owner told him the renovations for the 2026 World Cup were not going to mess with the iconic venue's soul.

Emilio Azcárraga Jean is keeping his word.

Latin America's largest stadium is adding more seats, more video screens, new lighting and locker rooms, a new entrance to the new hybrid pitch, and a new sound system with over 340 speakers.

Regular spectators will notice the upgrades but at the same time the 59-year-old venue has preserved its major characteristics, according to official computer renderings obtained by the Associated Press.

"It was very important to maintain its soul," stadium director Felix Aguirre told the AP. "The soul is the es-



Workers renovate Azteca Stadium, which will host the opening game of the 2026 FIFA World Cup, in Mexico City, Tuesday, Nov. 18, 2025.

sence of the stadium and it's what we all come to enjoy."

Azteca was where Pelé won his last World Cup in 1970 and where Diego Maradona won it all in

1986. "We all have important memories of Azteca Stadium in our lives," Aguirre said. "That's why we undertook this renovation, guided by Mr. Azcárraga's vision and with the stadium's

future in mind, preserving its soul and the emotions it evokes."

Mexico is co-hosting the World Cup with the United States and Canada, and Azteca will become the

first stadium to host a World Cup opening match for a third time, next June 11. Azteca will stage five matches in total, including two playoffs.

Before the doors were closed in 2024, Azteca seated 83,000. That number could grow to 87,000 but Aguirre said they were still figuring out the real number.

They are returning to a hybrid pitch. One was installed in 2018 but poor field conditions forced a last-minute change of venue for an NFL game between the Kansas City Chiefs and the Los Angeles Rams. Natural grass was installed the following year. The new pitch will have new ventilation and drainage to resist heavy downpours common in Mexico City.

The leaky roof is being repaired and the locker rooms moved to the center of the stadium and made bigger to accommodate NFL teams. □

(AP Photo/Eduardo Verdugo)

Bayern Munich eyes another record as it dominates Bundesliga

By **CIARÁN FAHEY** AP Sports Writer

BERLIN (AP) — Bayern Munich has been dominating the Bundesliga for so long it will match a 52-year-old league record even in the unlikely event of a loss at home to Freiburg.

Vincent Kompany's team will be top of the Bundesliga no matter what happens in Munich on Saturday, matching the record of 43 consecutive rounds atop the league set by Bayern from March 1972 through the 1972-73 season when stars including Franz Beckenbauer, Paul Breitner, Gerd Müller and Uli Hoeneß won the club's second and third Bundesliga titles.

Kicker magazine noted that the streak ended in the opening round of the 1973-74 season when the Bayern team coached by Udo Lattek defeated Fortuna Düsseldorf "only" 3-1 while Stuttgart went top due to beating Schalke 3-0. Bayern still won that

season to make it three in a row.

Bayern's record 16-game winning start this season was ended by Union Berlin before the international break, and the Bavarian powerhouse will be keen to start another winning streak against Freiburg before it visits Arsenal in the Champions League on

Wednesday. Bayern already leads the Bundesliga by six points from Leipzig after 10 rounds.

Key matchups

Freiburg hasn't beaten Bayern since May 2015 and it has never won a league game in Munich, where it has suffered some heavy defeats. Freiburg started the league with two defeats but has since lost to

only Bayer Leverkusen.

Third-placed Borussia Dortmund hosts fourth-placed Stuttgart on Saturday, when Dortmund forward Karim Adeyemi will hope to generate headlines for his play rather than for possession of illegal weapons. Adeyemi said he came into their possession after ordering a "mystery box" over the Internet.

Also on Saturday, struggling Wolfsburg hosts Leverkusen for its first game since firing its coach and sporting director. Leverkusen seeks further development before facing Manchester City away on Tuesday.

Eintracht Frankfurt, another Champions League participant, visits Cologne late Saturday.

Players to watch

Luis Diaz continues to shine for Bayern, scoring a contender for goal of the season from a narrow angle in the 2-2 draw at Union. The Colombia star has 11 goals and set up five more in his

first 17 games for Bayern since switching from Liverpool.

Bosnian forward Fisnik Asllani is Hoffenheim's top scorer with five after playing in every game so far. Mainz will be wary of the threat he poses on Friday. Stuttgart forward Deniz Undav wasn't called for Germany's World Cup qualifiers after only recently returning to form following an injury layoff. He scored two goals before the international break and picks up against Dortmund to try and stay in Germany coach Julian Nagelsmann's mind for the World Cup next year.

Who's out

Leverkusen was fretting about the fitness of influential wing back Álex Grimaldo after he missed Spain's World Cup qualifier against Turkey on Tuesday because of an injury. Grimaldo was already playing to his limits and missed Leverkusen's 3-0 defeat at Bayern. □



Bayern's Raphael Guerreiro, left, celebrates with Bayern's Leon Goretzka after scoring his side's second goal during the German Bundesliga soccer match between Borussia Mönchengladbach and Bayern Munich in Mönchengladbach, Germany, Saturday, Oct. 25, 2025.

(AP Photo/Martin Meissner)

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Montpellier denies forward Mary Fowler's racism allegation and threatens legal action

By **SAMUEL PETREQUIN AP Sports Writer**

French soccer club Montpellier has denied racism allegations made by Australia forward Mary Fowler, who said a teammate gave her bananas as a departing gift in 2022.

Montpellier said in a statement Thursday it discovered "with astonishment a number of accusations" made by Fowler in her memoir, "Bloom," and said there's no evidence to support her claims.

"Some of them are particularly serious, and the short-cut that results from them portraying the club as a racist entity is unacceptable," Montpellier's statement said.

Fowler was 17 when she joined Montpellier in 2020 and played there for 2½ seasons before leaving for Manchester City.

In her book, Fowler wrote that she and teammate

Ashleigh Weerden were left out of a presentation for departing players, who were given flowers after the final home game of the

season.

"Afterwards, when we got inside the changing room, some of our teammates questioned why we hadn't

received any flowers," Fowler wrote, according to excerpts of her book quoted by Australian media.

"We shrugged our shoulders,

just as clueless as they were. A few of the girls laughed about it and then one of the other players came over and handed my friend and me some bananas, saying, 'Here, have these.' That was the cherry on top.

"Since leaving Montpellier, my friend and I have spoken about that moment a few times," she added. "Not receiving flowers was one thing, but as two of only six Black girls in the squad, receiving bananas wasn't something I could laugh off and forget about."

Montpellier, which said it may take legal action, offered a different version of events.

"From a purely factual standpoint, the truth leaves no room for interpretation," the club said. "On June 1, 2022, the women's team played their last home match against Bordeaux



Australia's Mary Fowler, left, reacts during a women's Group B soccer match between Australia and the United States, at the Marseille Stadium, at the 2024 Summer Olympics, July 31, 2024, in Marseille, France.

(AP Photo/Daniel Cole, file)